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# MATTERS ARISING FROM THE WORK OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES REQUIRING DECISION BY THE COMMISSION

Note by the Executive Secretary

## Justification for granting a standing character to the Meeting of Officials on Land Administration of the Committee on Human Settlements

- At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee on Human Settlements, considering the implications of the Plan of Action concerning PSBs and their related bodies, recommended that the Meeting of Officials on Land Administration (MOLA) be granted standing character.

- Accordingly, this proposal is submitted, with the required justification, for decision by the Commission.

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1. As indicated in the report of its fifty-ninth session, the Committee on Human Settlements, considering the implications of the Plan of Action concerning PSBs and their related bodies, recommended that the Meeting of Officials on Land Administration (MOLA) be granted standing character (ECE/HBP/110, paragraph 4 (c)(iii)). The justification for this proposal is as follows:

BACKGROUND

2. The Meeting of Officials on Land Administration was set up under the auspices of the Committee on Human Settlements in February 1996. It aims at promoting land administration through security of tenure, establishment of real estate markets in countries in transition, and modernization of land registration systems in the market economies. The Meeting works in the area of (a) legal rights in real property; (b) land administration (real property formation); (c) land information (land register); and (d) institutional issues.

3. The following parties are interested in this activity: (a) National government: in its administration, taxation, economic development, market information, and European harmonization; (b) Local government: in spatial planning, land valuation, land use, and environmental protection; (c) Companies and citizens: in security of property rights, access to housing through mortgage finance, market and investment opportunity, real property transfer.

4. Between its sessions, all work is supervised and guided by the Steering Group of MOLA consisting of representatives from Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom. Representatives of the World Bank, EU Phare Programme and US AID regularly participate in MOLA' activities and meetings of its Steering Group.

EXPERIENCE GAINED

5. The MOLA has gained extensive experience in promotion of privatization and effective real estate market through promotion of modern land registration systems in the ECE region. It represents a well-established network of land administration officials in Europe and North America. It organizes workshops, meetings with donors and lending organizations, prepares guidelines and policy papers. It operates by sending independent expert missions to ECE countries to give policy advice and recommendations on national programmes on land market development and real estate registration. These activities are being implemented in response to a high demand from the ECE member States. The MOLA's network, its activities and experience assist donor and lending organizations to better structure and coordinate their numerous and expensive

projects in countries in transition, on the basis of a clear identification of national problems and local needs.

RATIONALE FOR GRANTING A STANDING CHARACTER TO ECE WORK IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

6. The ECE is the only international forum where the issues of land administration are identified and addressed in a comprehensive manner at the regional level.

7. MOLA benefits from an extensive network of experts located in all parts of the region, which needs to be maintained in order to continue exchanging experiences and harmonizing rules and technology uses in this area.

8. Land information and administration systems have to be improved and modernized on a continuing basis. Particular attention is being paid to countries in transition which are engaged in building up new systems from the very beginning. On their part, western countries are moving from traditional to modern systems, which involves changes in computerization, legislation and institutional organization.

9. It thus appears that the establishment and modernization of land administration systems call for continuous exchange of experiences and cooperation among national experts of the entire region. In accordance with the Plan of Action, the Commission is requested to take a decision on the above proposal.